GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:912
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2005
CONVERSION OF TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
Krishnadas Shri N.N.

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the funds sanctioned for the Tribal Development by State Government are being utilized for different purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent conversion of Tribal Development Fund by different State Governments?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) & (b) No instance of funds sanctioned by the State Governments being utilized for purposes other than those sanctioned has been reported to this Ministry.

(c) The State Governments monitor utilization of funds sanctioned by them. However, in order to ensure that the funds released under the tribal welfare schemes by this Ministry are uitlised properly, this Ministry has taken several steps, which include:-

(i) Receipt of Utilization Certificates as a pre requisite for further release of funds;

(ii) Periodic progress reports regarding the status of implementation of schemes;

(iii) Central Government Officers undertake on the spot visits to the States/UTs for ascertaining the progress of implementation of schemes.

(iv) Meetings/Conferences are convened at the Central levei with the State Secretaries of Tribal Welfare Departments to ensure timely submission of proposals, speed up implementation schemes, and review physical & financial progress,

(v) At the State/field level, the agencies like Tribal Advisory Council, Project implementation committees of ITDPS and Panchayat Samities also monitor timely spending of funds and effective implementation of schemes.

(vi) To avoid delays in disbursements of funds by the State Plan/Finance and Tribal Welfare Departments, to the line departments/implementing agencies, the guidelines for allocation and utilization of SCA to TSP has since been revised with the provision of ITDA/ITDP wise earmarking of SCA funds. It has been provided in the guidelines that all States/UTs should ensure that assessment of actual programmes/Schemes implemented under TSP on the socio economic conditions of the tribals covered under ITDPs, MADAs Clusters, PTGs as the case may be, should specifically be undertaken.

(vii) In the case of schemes implemented through the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), funds are released after an assessment of the standing of the NGO, past performance, etc. Apart from the periodic progress reports, the NGOs are required to furnish annual accounts and audited reports and utilization certificates on the basis of which further release of funds are made. Inspection of NGOs is also undertaken through State Governments/UT officials and other authorities, and also by the Central Government officers.